

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, prior to line 2, please insert the following headings and paragraph:

--CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims priority under 35 USC §119 to French Patent Application No. 0209153 filed on July 18, 2002.

TECHNICAL FIELD--

On page 2, please amend the paragraphs comprising lines 21-26 as follows:

--Figure 1 shows a portion of a composite insulator provided with a metal end fitting whose outside portion is in the form of a knob, where the remaining portion of the composite insulator is essentially the same as that shown; and

Figure 2 shows a portion of a composite insulator provided with a metal end fitting whose outside portion is terminated by a clevis, where the remaining portion of the composite insulator is essentially the same as that shown.--

On page 2 at line 27, please amend the heading as follows:

--MORE DETAILED DESCRIPTION--

On page 2, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 28 as follows:

--In Figure 1, there can be seen a metal interface 3, in this case a ductile metal tube, which is sleeve coupled by a swaging technique to one end of the rod 2 of an insulator. The rod is made of a synthetic material, for example out of glass fibers and resin. Although not shown in Figure 1, the second end of the rod 2 extends beyond coating 6. A second metal interface 3 is coupled to this second end of rod 2.--

On page 2, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 33 as follows:

--A coating 6 is placed around the rod 2 and around the interface both interfaces 3, while nevertheless leaving an end portion of the each interface 3 uncovered by the coating. This not covered or bared end portion of the each interface can be used after the insulator body has been made for fixing an endpiece to the each interface. In Figure 1, the forged steel metal endpiece 1 is terminated by a knob 4, which endpiece is inserted into the tube 3 and is then fixed thereto by a swaging technique. In order to obtain leaktightness for the rod portion, the tube 3 includes an inside transverse separating wall 5 which may be a metal web obtained by molding or by machining, or which may be a silicone seal, e.g. fitted inside the tube. The inside diameters of the two end portions of the tube 3 may be identical or different. When the diameters are identical, it is possible to use a standard commercially-available tube, thereby further reducing the cost of manufacturing the insulator.--

On page 3, please amend the paragraph beginning at line 23 as follows:

--Figure 2 shows a rod 12 having a tube 13 fixed to the end thereof, the tube serving as an interface for an end fitting 11 that is terminated by a clevis 14. An insulating coating 16 surrounds the rod 12 and a portion of the tube 13. The tube has an internal wall 15 fitted thereto, in this case a silicone plug. Although not shown in Figure 2, a second tube 13 is fixed to the other end of rod 12. Another end fitting 11 that is terminated by a second clevis 14 is secured to this second tube 13.--